

REMARKS

Office Action is discussed in detail below. Paragraph numbers correspond to the paragraph numbers of the Office Action.

Claims Rejections - 35 USC 103

Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikoma et al (U.S. Pat. 5,077,149) in view of Bougauchi et al (Abstract Japanese Patent 02244555).

Applicant's independent claims 1, 7 and 13 are as follows:

1. An active composition for a positive electrode of an alkaline electrochemical cell, comprising:
 - a nickel hydroxide material; and
 - a binder comprising a pectin or a molasses.
7. A positive electrode for an alkaline electrochemical cell, comprising:
 - an active composition including:
 - a nickel hydroxide material; and
 - a binder comprising a pectin or a molasses.
13. An alkaline electrochemical cell, comprising:
 - at least one positive electrode;
 - at least one negative electrode; and
 - an alkaline electrolyte,said positive electrode having an active material composition including a nickel hydroxide material and a binder comprising a pectin or a molasses.

Ikoma is directed to a nickel/hydrogen storage battery comprising a nickel positive electrode. Ikoma provides no teaching or suggestion of a pectin binder. Bougauchi is directed to a zinc electrode for alkaline storage battery (see title of the Abstract - "ZINC ELECTRODE FOR ALKALINE STORAGE BATTERY"). The zinc electrode includes a pectin binder together with Zn oxide powder and Zn. Bougauchi provides no teaching or suggestion that the pectin binder may be used in combination with a nickel hydroxide material.

In fact, a zinc electrode is typically used as the negative electrode of a battery (the "anode" of the battery during discharge). Referring to pages 18.1-18.3 from the book Handbook of Batteries, Second Edition, Copyright 1995, McGraw-Hill, Inc. (David Linden, Editor), Section 18.3.1 describes that, for a reserve zinc/silver oxide cell, the negative plates may be prepared by "pasting or pressing zinc powder or zinc oxide onto a grid".

In contrast to Bougauchi, applicant's invention is directed to a positive electrode using a nickel hydroxide active material.


In order for references to be properly combined, they must have some teaching or suggestion of the proposed combination. As noted, Ikoma teaches using a nickel hydroxide material as the active material for the positive electrode of an alkaline battery. However Ikoma provides no teaching or suggestion of using a pectin binder. Bougauchi uses a pectin binder in a zinc electrode but provides no teaching or suggestion that the pectin binder may be used in combination with a nickel hydroxide material. Since a zinc electrode is typically used as a negative electrode of

a battery while nickel hydroxide is typically used for the positive electrode of a battery, the references actually teach away from any combination. Bougauchi actually teaches away from using a pectin binder Hence, the combination of Ikoma and Bougauchi is improper.

Summary

In view of the above amendments and remarks, claims 1, 4-7, 10-13, 15-18 are in condition for allowance and applicant requests removal of the outstanding objection and rejections and notification of allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or suggestions regarding the prosecution of this application, he is asked to contact applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Philip H. Schlazer

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Energy Conversion Devices, Inc.

2956 Waterview Drive

Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Phone: (248) 293-0440 extension 6260

Fax: (248) 844-2273